

## Comments of the Vandalia Citizens Council

### Concerning RM-11338

We have read many of the comments stated so far and it is good that so many broadcasters are responding to this call for comments on the ground breaking proposal by the National Association of Broadcasters.

We are a group of community minded citizens in Vandalia, Michigan, a small town which is almost 98 percent African American. We are best known as the termination point of the famous Underground Railroad which brought so many people to freedom from the slavery of the south. We have an LPFM nearby in Cassopolis Michigan. Although slightly weak over here in Vandalia it is listenable, especially with an outdoor antenna. The only other station local to us is WGTO AM. WGTO has only 34 watts at night.

WGTO provides election and sports coverage. We are familiar with the owner of that station. When it was clear that an LPFM was going to built in Cassopolis he agreed to let the church many of us go to which operates the LPFM mount their transmitting antenna on his AM tower, saving us a lot of money in the construction of WLWZ. What is a shame is that during elections and other times when we need to know what is going on, the church must have someone in Cassopolis listening to WGTO and then repeat the information over

WLWZ-LP. WGTO covers many community events that we cannot afford to staff and cover.

It seems such a shame that we cannot simply let WGTO use our signal on WLWZ to broadcast important information like election results and emergency coverage. We cannot hear WGTO at night in Vandalia even though it is no more than 5 miles away.

The idea that AM stations should have translators is wonderful but we think that it will be some time before the actual order is given from the FCC that would allow this. The option could be put in place right away to allow LPFM stations who are located close to a stand alone AM station the ability to rebroadcast that station by agreement. This would be an immediate boost for AM stations that qualify. I am not sure how many other LPFM stations would have a relationship good enough with a local AM stand alone to want to allow them to use the signal but we think the option should be there. In the case of WLWZ, I am told that the EAS system for WLWZ actually uses the EAS audio from WGTO since the transmitters are in the same place.

It would take no more than the flip of a switch to put WGTO on WLWZ and allow them to have improved night service. Would you folks at the NAB consider putting that as an option in your proposal to the FCC? It seems a shame that we WLWZ and WGTO are on the same tower but we cannot hear the night operation of WGTO here in the next town but we can hear WLWZ and they are more than willing to help the AM station out at night when they provide such great local sports and news coverage but cannot be heard well even in

Cassopolis, much less over here in Vandalia. If we could switch them on when they are doing something we both would like coverage on it would help a great deal.

Georgia English Chairperson VCC

And President of Deacons Board for P T Mission, licensee of WLWZ-LP Cassopolis Michigan